

the land and the wildlife would be permanent but the hoped-for energy benefits only temporary. There are some places in our world that are so rare and so special, that we have a responsibility to protect them. The Arctic Refuge is one of those places. As Mo Udall said, "In our lifetime, we have few opportunities to shape the very Earth on which our descendants will live their lives. In each generation, we have carved up more and more of our once-great natural heritage. There ought to be a few places left in the world the way the Almighty made them." The Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act would ensure that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is never carved up by the big oil companies but is instead forever protected for future Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CALLING FOR 2-1-1 ACT OF 2007

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Calling for 2-1-1 Act of 2007. I am proud to lend my support as an original cosponsor of this bill, which was introduced today by my colleague, Ms. ESHOO of California. I would also like to note a concern I have with the bill as introduced, which I hope will be resolved prior to a vote in the full House of Representatives.

2-1-1 is the number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to provide citizens with information and referral about important community services and volunteer opportunities. United Way and its affiliates operate more than 200 call centers in 41 states nationwide, including my home state of Nebraska. About two-thirds of American citizens currently have access to 2-1-1 referrals. The Calling for 2-1-1 Act will help achieve nationwide coverage for all citizens.

More than 50 percent of the calls made to 2-1-1 call centers are placed to meet basic needs such as food, heat, clothing and shelter for citizens facing difficulty. 2-1-1 helps to keep citizens off long-term government financial aid such as welfare and food stamps by meeting immediate needs before they become crises. 2-1-1 also enhances homeland security by serving as an emergency backup to 9-1-1 during natural disasters and other crises.

In my Congressional District alone, almost 40,000 Nebraskans sought information through 2-1-1 between November 2005 and October 2006. The top needs were for assistance with utilities, rent, food, housing, health and dental care, furniture and tax preparation. Thousands of Nebraskans were able to obtain assistance from federal and non-profit community service agencies because of the existence of 2-1-1.

2-1-1 was crucial during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. When 9-1-1 emergency lines were inoperational, 2-1-1 stepped up to link citizens in dire need with critical services, including emergency medical care, food and housing, and crisis recovery and relocation services nationwide. Volunteer organizations such as the Red Cross also benefit from people who call 2-1-1 seeking opportunities to give back to their communities. 2-1-1 meets critical needs and merits federal aid, provided

that additional protections are put in place before this legislation is brought to a vote.

It was my privilege to work last year with Ms. ESHOO and Mrs. CLINTON in the Senate, as well as Mr. PICKERING and Mr. BILIRAKIS in the House of Representatives, to address important concerns for "socially sensitive" referrals before bringing the Calling for 2-1-1 Act to a vote. As Members of Congress with deep convictions for the protection of human life, we drafted language to refer callers seeking pregnancy-related services to public health departments.

This reasonable compromise was designed to ensure the 2-1-1 legislation does not become a vehicle for taxpayer funding of controversial referrals such as abortion. Unfortunately, this important language, which had been agreed upon by all parties, was not included in the legislation introduced today. I look forward to working with my Ms. ESHOO and my other colleagues to correct this situation.

If my concerns are not addressed, I would be forced to vote against and actively fight against the legislation I have cosponsored and worked to enact into law, despite my strong support for increasing access to 2-1-1 for more American citizens. The fact that I have again cosponsored this legislation despite my concern is testament to the good working relationship I have enjoyed with Ms. ESHOO and Ms. CLINTON, and which I trust will continue during this new Congress.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to help this legislation become law while ensuring it protects and upholds the sanctity of human life.

IN HONOR OF UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University Park Elementary School upon its receipt of the Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award.

University Park Elementary School is among the first selected in the 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program. It is among only 250 schools nationwide honored for either superior academic achievement or dramatic gains in student achievement.

The Blue Ribbon Award is a testament to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of University Park Elementary. This Award also recognizes the values that make the Highland Park Independent School District a beacon of academic excellence.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize University Park Elementary School for its outstanding achievement in preparing our children for the challenges of tomorrow. May University Park Elementary School continue to be a shining example of superior leadership and commitment to excellence in education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION FOR SWEARING IN CEREMONY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, please excuse my absence from the formal House of Representatives swearing in ceremony today as I was unavoidably detained while paying my respects to a fallen soldier from my district at his funeral in Arlington National Cemetery. I appreciate the opportunity to take my oath of office on my return to the U.S. Capitol.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW A. PILCH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew A. Pilch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew A. Pilch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Matthew in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLES BANK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Peoples Bank and offer my congratulations on their 97th Anniversary in the Northwest Indiana community. To commemorate this special occasion, Peoples Bank will hold an anniversary celebration on Saturday, January 6, 2007, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Peoples Bank was established in 1910 and was organized with a focus to meet the many needs of its consumers. Peoples Bank was originally known as the First Polish National Building and Loan Association. During that time, it was the main hub for church and social activities in East Chicago, Indiana. Over several decades, the association's name changed numerous times, and in 1989, it was renamed Peoples Bank.

Peoples Bank was the first savings and loan association to receive a federal charter in East

Chicago after the Great Depression. In the 1950s, the bank played an integral role in assisting former servicemen to build or purchase homes through G.I. Loans. At this time, Peoples Bank expanded its access to the Northwest Indiana community by moving into a multi-office operation. The Woodmar section of Hammond was chosen as the second office location for Peoples Bank.

It was during the 1960s that Peoples Bank added another branch location in Merrillville. Due to the success of these initial offices, additional branches were eventually established in the area, including branches in Dyer, Munster, Schererville, and a second branch in Merrillville. In the year 2000, Peoples Bank opened its eighth branch location in Hobart.

With all of this expansion taking place, Peoples Bank introduced a new corporate headquarters in 2003. Located on two acres, this four-story building houses the many departments and offices necessary to operate such a professional organization, where the customers always come first.

Peoples Bank's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Mr. David Bochnowski, has served as the leader of the organization since 1981, after serving on the board since 1977. With his guidance, along with all the hard work of the staff, Peoples Bank has continued to be an active force in providing superior customer service and assistance to all of Northwest Indiana.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Peoples Bank on their 97th Anniversary. Their dedication to the people of Northwest Indiana and their constant efforts throughout the years are worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the late Honorable Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, Mayor of Daytona Beach, Florida.

On Tuesday, December 5, this great pioneering lady succumbed to cancer at the age of 80, even as she continued performing her duties as the first female and African-American Mayor of that city. She was buried with full honors in her native Daytona Beach on Wednesday, December 13, surrounded by her six grandchildren, two brothers and a be-reaved constituency. Her untimely passing will truly leave a deep void in our midst, especially in our state's African-American leadership and among the august membership of the National League of Cities, which looked up to Mayor Scarlett-Golden as one of Florida's truly great mayors.

Affectionately called "The Mayor," by her constituents and friends, Mrs. Scarlett-Golden was one of the best and noblest of Florida's leaders. She dedicated 38 years of her life toward championing the education and academic achievements of Florida students and those who came under her tutelage at the San Francisco (California) Unified School District. She advocated comprehensive academics for

her students, along with scholastic projects designed to help students at the junior and senior college levels. Mrs. Scarlett-Golden believed that education was the best way for children of the poor to achieve and serve as responsible and productive citizens.

A native of Daytona Beach, Mayor Scarlett-Golden obtained her early education at Daytona Beach's Campbell and Kaiser Laboratory School. She went on to get her Bachelor's degree, graduating with Honors from Bethune-Cookman College (B-CC), and later on obtained her Master's Degree in Education from Boston University. In 1999, her alma mater (B-CC) conferred upon her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, a longtime friend, said of her, "Yvonne was an incredible woman who achieved a tremendous amount in her life. She took on challenges and she was a real fighter. I never would've guessed the end was so near for my dear friend." "She lived everyday as though her incredible life was never going to end."

This public servant was a multi-dimensional leader, an indefatigable community-builder, and a loving mother and grandmother. Her leadership was truly admirable. Mrs. Scarlett-Golden was a faithful steward of Daytona Beach. She was God's faithful servant, bringing hope and optimism to thousands of ordinary folks whose lives she touched so deeply, never holding anyone at arm's length. This remarkable lady was a friend of the family. She was my confidante, and I was blessed to have her as my god-mother. Indeed, for me, she will serve as an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of public service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and resolute and she was blessed with a sunny disposition and enviable optimism. She will be truly missed.

She taught us the virtues of hope, optimism and faith during her earthly sojourn. This is the wonderful legacy Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden left behind. And this is the gift with which she blesses us now.

INLAND EMPIRE REGIONAL
WATER RECYCLING INITIATIVE

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative, to authorize water recycling projects under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program. This legislation, which passed the House in the 109th Congress, is an important component of southern California's regional water management.

The Inland Empire Water Recycling Initiative authorizes \$30 million for the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Cucamonga Valley Water District to assist in constructing two water recycling projects. The projects will produce nearly 100,000 acre-feet of new water annually to the area's water supply. This initiative has the support of all member agencies of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which encompasses 240 square miles in southern California. It also serves a number of cities I represent, including the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Upland and Montclair.

These water agencies are using high quality recycled water in many water intensive applications, like landscape and agricultural irrigation, construction, and industrial cooling. This allows fresh water to be conserved or used for drinking, which reduces our dependence on expensive imported water. In addition, by recycling water which would otherwise be wasted and unavailable, these agencies ensure that we ring the last drop of use out of water before it is ultimately returned to the environment.

It is imperative that we continue to approve measures preventing water supply shortages in the Western United States. This recycling initiative will help meet the water needs of the Inland Empire and begin a strategic federal-local partnership to bring a significant amount of new water supply to the region. In fact, the Bureau of Reclamation has already recognized the Inland Empire Water Recycling Initiative as one of the most cost effective water reuse projects.

The Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative has the support of all member agencies of IEUA, as well as the water agencies downstream in Orange County. IEUA serves the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana (through the Fontana Water Company), Ontario, Upland, Montclair, Rancho Cucamonga (through the Cucamonga Valley Water District), and the Monte Vista Water District.

I look forward to working closely with the House Resources Committee, and with the new Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, who is a cosponsor of this bill and has been a champion of regional water solutions. I am also pleased to have the continued support of my colleagues, KEN CALVERT and GARY MILLER.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS J. PILCH
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicolas J. Pilch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicolas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicolas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicolas J. Pilch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives.